

BOOK REVIEW

TONY PRATO and DAN FAGRE, 2005. **National Parks and Protected Areas: Approaches for Balancing Social, Economic, and Ecological Values.** (ISBN 0-8138-1248-8, hbk.). Blackwell Publishing Professional, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, IA, 50014, U.S.A. (Orders: 800-862-6657; 1-515-292-3348; www.blackwellprofessional.com). \$124.99, 446 pp., b/w figures, graphs, tables, index, 7" × 10".

"This book is designed as a primary or supplemental text for upper division undergraduate courses and introductory graduate courses in conservation and management of national parks and protected areas, natural resource planning and management, natural resource economics, conservation biology, public land management, and related subjects."

Features of the book include (from the publisher's notes):

- * a multidisciplinary, systems perspective;
- * focus on science- and knowledge-based natural resource management; concentration on North American national parks and protected areas with information and examples from other parts of the world;
- * clarification of methods for dealing with social, economic, and ecological uncertainty;
- * explanations of biophysical and economic simulation models and information management technologies: GIS, remote sensing, decision support systems, computer animation, etc;
- * discussion of the role of local communities and joint decision making for designing and implementing management strategies;
- * case studies that show multi-dimensional decision making for specific management problems and issues.

Chapters are these:

1. Contemporary issues in protected area management
2. Role and status of protected area
3. Cultural values
4. Social, economic, and ecological values
5. Institutional environment
6. Selection and delineation
7. Concepts for ecosystem management
8. Approaches to ecosystem management
9. Case studies in protected area management--I
10. Case studies in protected area management--II
11. Future planning and management
12. Synthesis

The brief and dry-sounding chapter titles belie the remarkable information and perspectives laid out in this book, hopefully to be read and absorbed by those who will help all of us preserve and maintain natural areas.—Guy Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.*